



January 25, 2010

Report to the Town Council

Submitted by Deborah Barchi

One thing that I think is exceptional in the town of Barrington, as I compare it to other towns I have worked for, is the excellent communication and cooperation that exists between the various town departments. It helps that our town manager holds regular town department head meetings, so the department heads become acquainted and comfortable with each other and learn to understand each other's departmental needs. When the time comes that assistance or advice is needed from one of our town colleagues, the spirit of cooperation has already been strongly established.

For example, recently I was able to go to Alan Corvi the director of public works and ask for the assistance of his staff to help paint the 2nd story rest rooms and the basement level hallways in the library/Peck Center. His crew did an excellent job, and using them saved the town thousands of dollars. Also, last week I was able to speak directly with John Lacross our police chief and with Gerald Bessette our fire chief to get timely information and good advice to answer some important questions. There are towns in which cooperation between town department heads is rare or non-existent, and those towns suffer accordingly; but in Barrington we are able to enhance service to the community by working together as respectful professionals.

And while I'm praising the town, as the library director I want to stress again how Barrington is truly a community of readers. Whether fiction or non-fiction, children's, teen, or adult books, Barrington has the highest per capita book borrowing levels of any place in Rhode Island, and also is among the very highest in the country. Our staff is trying to do all they can to promote reading, with book purchases, books displays, book lists, and book-themed programs. I'm excited about a new book promotion program we're starting this Wednesday in which readers are encouraged to briefly discuss one or two book titles they've enjoyed and want to recommend. At the end of each monthly session participants will be able to leave with a list of books highly recommended by their neighbors and their librarians. The recommendations will also be listed on our webpage so others can benefit from the book suggestions as well.

By the way, our movie series is going gangbusters at the library. What better way to escape the pressures of modern living than by relaxing in the library's state of the art auditorium to view the silly mayhem of the Thin Man series? There's lots more good movies coming soon, always free, at the library!